

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00257 200216Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 180700Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9412
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0257

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 305926, (B) 76 SINGAPORE 4672, (C) SINGAPORE 4673,
(D) 77 SINGAPORE 3032

1. AS REQUESTED REF A, WE QUERIED GOS IN LATE DECEMBER ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF SINGAPORE'S A-4 TRAINING PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PERMSEC CHEONG QWEE WAH CALLED IN AIRA ON JANUARY 16 AND GAVE HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED IN PARA 2 BELOW. ATTACHED TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE WAS A COPY OF THE LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1976 FROM PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO TO THE SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR IN MANILA. THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER WAS FORWARDED AND DISCUSSED IN REFTELS B AND C. A COPY IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, DATED JANUARY 16, 1978: QUOTE:

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE HAS, FOR SOME TIME PAST, BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AS REQUEST FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE TO STATION A DETACHMENT AT CLARK AIR FORCE BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERGOING CONTINUATION TRAINING. THIS IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF REQUIRED AIR SPACE IN SINGAPORE FOR THIS KIND OF TRAINING. IT WAS ALSO INDICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN

ITS ASSENT TO THIS PROJECT OF CONTINUATION TRAINING.

A DRAFT AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THIS TRAINING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES COVERING JURISDICTION, LIABILITY AND OTHER GENERAL CONDITIONS THAT WOULD APPLY TO RSAF PERSONNEL WHO ARE IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS SINCE FORWARDED FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT A DRAFT AGREEMENT SETTING OUT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THESE FACILITIES ARE TO BE USED.

SINCE IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE US GOVERNMENT THAT ANY AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THIS MATTER WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT BEFORE IT IS FINALISED, THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE US GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE SOUGHT FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE.

ON RECEIVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE US GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE WILL PROCEED TO CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD PROVIDE FOR ONE RSAF DETACHMENT TO BE DEPLOYED TO CLARK AIR FORCE BASE PERIODICALLY TO UNDERGO CONTINUATION TRAINING. THE RSAF DETACHMENT WILL COMPRISE NO MORE THAN 75 PERSONS AND 8 A-4S AIRCRAFT. THERE WILL BE SIX GROUPS, OF 8 PILOTS FOR EACH GROUP, WHICH WILL TRAIN ONE AFTER ANOTHER WITH EACH PERIOD OF TRAINING LASTING 2 MONTHS. IT IS THE INTENTION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE TO COMMENCE THIS TRAINING IN EARLY MAY, 1978. UNQUOTE.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE AIDE MEMOIRE WITH CHEONG, AIRA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USG HAD EXPECTED BOTH SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES JOINTLY TO REQUEST U.S. APPROVAL FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BETWEEN THEM, RATHER THAN A REQUEST FROM SINGAPORE ALONE. CHEONG DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH THIS IDEA, AND ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW IN DUE COURSE WHAT IS REQUIRED.

4. IT SEEMS EVIDENT FROM THE FOREGOING THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO MOVEMENT IN THE A-4 TRAINING PROPOSAL PROJECT SINCS OUR DISCUSSION WITH FORMER PERMSEC PANG TEE POW IN JULY 1977 (REFTEL D). THIS COULD BE DUE IN PART TO PANG'S HOSPIALIZATION AND EVENTUAL DEATH LAST FALL, SINCE HE APPARENTLY WAS ONE OF THE PRIME MOVERS IN THE PROJECT.

5. OF IMPORTANCE TO NOTE IS THAT THE ROMULO LETTER ATTACHED TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE IS A DUPLICATING MACHINE COPY OF THE SAME LETTER SHARED WITH US IN OCTOBER 1976 WHICH WE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MANILA. APPARENTLY THE GOS

IS NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT IN TOTO ALL OF THE ORIGINAL
PHILIPPINE CONDITIONS AND STIPULATIONS, SOME OF WHICH ARE
POSSIBLY TROUBLESOME TO OUR OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE PHILI-
PPINES PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS OPERATIONAL CONTROL. NOT ONLY
WOULD THE RSAF DETACHMENT BE GOVERNED BY PHILIPPINE LAWS AND
REGULATIONS, WITH THE PHILIPPINES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER ALL
OFFENSES BY RSAF MEMBERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, BUT THE PHILIPPINE
AIR FORCE WOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER ALL TRAINING ACTIVITIES THROUGH
SUCH MEANS AS APPROVAL RIGHTS ON TRAINING FLIGHTS AND AIRCRAFT
SCHEDULING, SPECIFICATION OF AIR NAVIGATION ROUTES TO BE
FLOWN, SUBMISSION OF DAILY TRAINING REPORTS BY THE RSAF, AND
INSPECTIONS OF RSAF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW WE SHOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SINGAP 00257 200216Z

RESPOND TO THE GOS AIDE MEMOIRE.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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